

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-85. (withdrawn).

86. (previously presented): A method of acquiring a processed frame by performing image processing on a desired frame sampled from a video image, said method comprising the steps of:

computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame; and
acquiring said processed frame by obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame.

87. (previously presented): The synthesis method as set forth in claim 86, wherein said desired frame is partitioned into a plurality of areas;
said similarity is computed for each of corresponding areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of areas; and

said processed frame is acquired by obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said corresponding areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted areas and said plurality of areas.

88. (canceled).

89. (previously presented): An image processor for acquiring a processed frame by performing image processing on a desired frame sampled from a video image, said image processor comprising:

similarity computation means for computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before or after said desired frame; and
synthesis means for obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame into said processed frame.

90. (previously presented): The image processor as set forth in claim 89, wherein

said similarity computation means partitions said desired frame into a plurality of areas and computes said similarity for each of corresponding areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of areas; and

said synthesis means obtains weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weights said corresponding areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizes said weighted areas and said plurality of areas into said processed frame.

91. (canceled).

92. (currently amended): A computer readable medium storing a computer program which, when executed by a computer processor, causes the computer processor to perform A computer program comprising a program code stored on a storage medium which can be read by a computer, for causing a computer to execute an image processing method of acquiring a processed frame by performing image processing on a desired frame sampled from a video image, said program code the method comprising:

~~a similarity computation procedure of computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame; and~~

~~a synthesis process of obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame into said processed frame.~~

93. (currently amended): The computer ~~program~~readable medium as set forth in claim 92, wherein

~~said similarity computation procedure~~computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame comprises a ~~procedure of~~ partitioning said desired frame into a plurality of areas and a ~~procedure of~~ computing said similarity for each of corresponding areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of areas; and

~~said synthesis procedure is a procedure of obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame into said processed frame~~ comprises obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said corresponding areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted areas and said plurality of areas into said processed frame.

94. (canceled).

95. (previously presented): The synthesis method as set forth in claim 87, wherein
a motion vector is computed for each area of said plurality of areas;
said areas are grouped into a plurality of subject areas based on said motion vector of
each area of said plurality of areas;
said similarity is computed for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one
frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and
said processed frame is acquired by obtaining weighting coefficients whose values
increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said
corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and
synthesizing said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas.

96. (previously presented): The image processor as set forth in claim 90, wherein
a moving vector computation means computes a moving vector for each area of said
plurality of areas;
said similarity computation means groups said areas into a plurality of subject areas
based on said motion vector of each area of said plurality of areas, and computes said similarity
for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said
plurality of subject areas; and

said synthesis means obtains weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weights said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting coefficients, and synthesizes said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas into said processed frame.

97. (currently amended): The computer ~~program~~readable medium as set forth in claim 93, further comprising a ~~moving vector computation procedure~~ for computing a moving vector for each area of said plurality of areas; wherein

said similarity computation procedurecomputing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame comprises a ~~procedure~~ of grouping said areas into a plurality of subject areas based on said motion vector of each area of said plurality of areas, and a ~~procedure~~ of computing said similarity for each of corresponding subject areas in said at least one frame which correspond to said plurality of subject areas; and

said synthesis procedure is a ~~procedure~~ of obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame into said processed frame comprises obtaining weighting coefficients whose values increase or decrease in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said corresponding subject areas of said at least one frame with said weighting

coefficients, and synthesizing said weighted subject areas and said plurality of subject areas into said processed frame.

98. (previously presented): The image processor as set forth in claim 89, further comprising:

similarity computation means for computing a similarity between said desired frame and at least one frame which is temporally before and one frame which is temporally after said desired frame; and

synthesis means for obtaining a weighting coefficient whose value increases or decreases in correspondence to a reference level of the similarity, then weighting said at least one frame with said weighting coefficient, and synthesizing said weighted frame and said desired frame into said processed frame.

99. (new): The synthesis method as set forth in claim 95, wherein
a magnitude of said motion vector for each area of said plurality of areas is calculated;
and

said plurality of subject areas comprises a first subject area including areas of said plurality of areas having a motion vector magnitude that has increased relative to said frame which is temporally before said desired frame, and a second subject area including areas of said

plurality of areas having a motion vector magnitude that has decreased relative to said frame which is temporally before said desired frame.

100. (new): The image processor as set forth in claim 96, wherein
the moving vector computation means computes a magnitude of said motion vector for
each area of said plurality of areas; and
said plurality of subject areas comprises a first subject area including areas of said
plurality of areas having a motion vector magnitude that has increased relative to said frame
which is temporally before said desired frame, and a second subject area including areas of said
plurality of areas having a motion vector magnitude that has decreased relative to said frame
which is temporally before said desired frame.

101. (new): The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 97, further comprising
computing a magnitude of said motion vector for each area of said plurality of areas; wherein
said plurality of subject areas comprises a first subject area including areas of said
plurality of areas having a motion vector magnitude that has increased relative to said frame
which is temporally before said desired frame, and a second subject area including areas of said
plurality of areas having a motion vector magnitude that has decreased relative to said frame
which is temporally before said desired frame.